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Identical letters dated 18 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the grave nature of the statements made on Thursday 14 September by the Iraqi Oil Minister, Amir Rashid, and his Vice-Minister, Abdallah Shahine, who claim that Kuwait is engaging in acts of sabotage by pumping oil from Iraqi fields situated near the border. The Iraqi Minister also threatened reprisals against Kuwait.

These statements and the real threats which they pose to the security and stability of Kuwait are part of the Iraqi regime's usual policy and illustrate the lack of desire for peace and the hostility shown by the Iraqi regime against Kuwait by trying to provoke crises and create an atmosphere of tension and instability in the region. In order to establish the truth, we wish to state the following:

1. Kuwait categorically rejects the latest allegations by Iraq, which is accusing it of pumping Iraqi oil from Kuwaiti fields situated in the north of the country, and reaffirms that these allegations are absolutely groundless.

It also rejects the threats made by Iraq and draws the attention of the Security Council to their potentially serious consequences.

2. The Kuwaiti oil wells in the northern region are actually situated a long way from the border and are under the sovereignty of Kuwait in accordance with the boundary demarcation established by the Security Council in resolution 833 (1993).

3. Iraq's allegations that Kuwait is developing the oil wells in the Ramila field are crude and false, since these fields are situated within Iraqi territory, far from the border. Moreover, there is no place called Ramila in Kuwait, and Kuwait is unaware of the location of the fields within Iraqi territory.

The most disturbing aspect of this situation is that the crisis artificially created by the Iraqi regime about border oil wells is exactly the same as the artificial crisis in 1990 which the Iraqi regime used to justify the invasion of and aggression against Kuwait. We therefore call upon the Security Council to fulfil its legal and political responsibilities by rejecting these Iraqi threats and provocations and taking the necessary steps to ensure that Iraq respects the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolution 687 (1991) and resolution 949 (1994) in which, inter alia, the Council:

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"*Determined* to prevent Iraq from resorting to threats and intimidation of its neighbours and the United Nations, [...],

Demands that Iraq not again utilize its military or any other forces in a hostile or provocative manner to threaten ... its neighbours".

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Mohammad A. **Abulhasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative